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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/792,179  
Filed: March 3, 2004  
Inventor(s):  
Brett B. Stewart, James W.  
Thompson, and Kathleen E.  
McClelland

Title: DISTRIBUTED  
NETWORK  
COMMUNICATION  
SYSTEM WHICH  
ENABLES MULTIPLE  
NETWORK PROVIDERS  
TO USE A COMMON  
DISTRIBUTED  
NETWORK  
INFRASTRUCTURE

§ Examiner: Unknown  
§ Group/Art Unit: 2681  
§ Atty. Dkt. No: 5285-04806  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Jeffrey C. Hood

*Jeffrey C. Hood*

Signature

2/2/2005

Date

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant requests consideration of ☒ the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or ☐ the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A copy of references C11-C12 listed on the Form PTO-1449 are enclosed.

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- a. ☐ within 3 months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);  
☐ within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an International application;  
☒ before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or  
☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

- b. ☐ after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, and thus: ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or ☐ a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed below.
- c. ☐ after the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus: the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided and a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed below.

2. It is hereby certified:

- ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56 (c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following additional information (including any co-pending or abandoned U.S. applications, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested:

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449:

- ☐ reference is made to an English language translation submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to an English language translation of a foreign patent office search report submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page(s) \_\_\_\_\_, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation set forth below:

5. ☐ Applicant also offers the following comments for the Examiner's consideration:

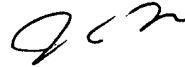
6. ☐ Also enclosed is a copy of a foreign search report citing these references.

7. ☐ The listed documents were brought to the attention of the Applicant(s) after payment of the issue fee in the captioned case. The documents were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant(s) request this Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 be placed in the file of the captioned application.

8. ☐ Applicant(s) requests that the Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 and references, which are being filed before the grant of the patent and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(i), be placed in the file of the captioned application.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are required relating to this Information Disclosure Statement. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC, Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5285-04806/JCH.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood  
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Attorney for Applicant(s)

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Date: 2/2/2005

**Form PTO-1449** (modified)List of Patents and Publications  
For Applicant's Information  
Disclosure Statement

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO: 5285-04806

SERIAL NO: 10/792,179

APPLICANT: Stewart et al.

FILING DATE: March 3, 2004

GROUP: 2681

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	C1	6,512,754	1/28/03	Feder et al.			
	C2	5,991,287	11/23/99	Diepstraten et al.			
	C3	6,801,509	10/5/04	Chuah et al.			
	C4	6,449,272	9/10/02	Chuah et al.			
	C5	6,393,482	5/21/02	Rai et al.			
	C6	6,377,982	4/23/02	Rai et al.			
	C7	6,363,421	3/26/02	Barker et al.			
	C8	6,285,665	9/4/01	Chuah et al.			
	C9	6,675,208	1/6/04	Rai et al.			
	C10	6,665,718	12/16/03	Chuah et al.			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION. YES/NO
	C11	EP 917 320	5/19/99	EP			

**OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

	C12	"IEEE Standards for Local and Metropolitan Area Networks: Virtual Bridged Local Area Networks", IEEE Std 802. 1Q-1998, December 8, 1998					

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the patent owner.

**Form PTO-1449** (modified)

List of Patents and Publications

For Applicant's Information

Disclosure Statement

(Use separate sheets if necessary)

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**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	C13	6,577,643	6/10/03	Rai et al.			
	C14	6,704,311	3/9/04	Chuah et al.			
	C15	6,654,610	11/25/03	Chen et al.			
	C16	6,577,644	6/10/03	Chuah et al.			
	C18	6,377,548	4/23/02	Chuah et al.			
	C19	6,512,754	1/28/03	Feder et al.			
	C20	6,496,491	12/17/02	Chuah et al.			
	C21	6,449,272	9/10/02	Chuah et al.			
	C22	6,421,714	7/16/02	Rai et al.			
	C23	6,414,950	7/2/02	Rai et al.			
	C24	6,400,722	6/4/02	Chuah et al.			
	C25	6,327,254	12/4/01	Chuah			
	C26	6,226,277	5/1/01	Chuah			
	C27	6,400,722	6/4/02	Chuah et al.			

**OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**


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